

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application. Claims 1-5, 8, 9, and 12 have been rejected. Claims 6, 7, 10, 11, and 13-15 are objected to. Claims 2-6, 8, 10-15 have been canceled. Claims 1, 7, and 9 herewith are amended. New claims 16 and 17 are herewith presented. Claims presently active are claims 1, 7, 9, 16, and 17. Independent claims in the case are 1, 9, and 16.

Applicants thank the Examiner for entering the amended paragraph beginning at page 4, line 12, of the specification.

Claims 1-5, 8, 9, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paczkowski (US 5,799,236) combined with Behnke (US 2002/0088799). Applicants agree that the cited references together describe various embodiments of microwave fusing.

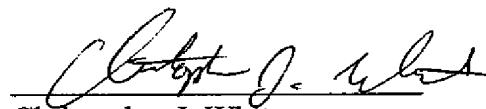
Claims 6, 7, 10, and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include all the features of claim 6. Claim 7 has been amended to depend from claim 1 instead of claim 6. Claim 9 has been amended to include all the features of claim 10. New claim 16 has been added including all the features of claim 11 and of claim 9, from which claim 11 depended. Claims 1, 7, 9, and 16 are therefore believed to be allowable.

Claim 15 is objected to as being dependent upon an objected base claim. New claim 17 has been added to claim the subject matter formerly included in claim 15. Claim 17 depends from new claim 16 and should be allowed with it.

Applicants therefore believe the application is in condition for allowance and such favorable action is courteously solicited. Should the Examiner consider that additional amendments are necessary, the favor is requested of a telephone call to the undersigned agent.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Christopher J. White", is written over a horizontal line.

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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.